

**CORNELL-DUBILIER ELECTRONICS
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY****REGION: II****ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS: N/A****INCIDENT CATEGORY: Active Production Facility****START DATE: N/A****NPL: No****OSC: Wilson****COMPLETION DATE: N/A****INCIDENT DESCRIPTION:**

The Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Site ("Site") is located at 333 Hamilton Boulevard in South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The Site occupies approximately 25 acres in an industrial/commercial/residential area. It is bordered by residential and commercial properties, wetlands and the Bound Brook. Conrail railroad tracks cross the Bound Brook just north of the Site. Other industries are scattered to the northeast and east of the Site on the opposite side of the Conrail tracks.

It is estimated that 540 persons reside within 0.25 miles of the Site. The nearest residential homes are located on Hamilton Boulevard and Spicer Avenue within 200 feet of the Site. The total population estimated to live within one mile of the Site is 8,700 persons.

Cornell-Dubilier Electronics (Cornell-Dubilier) operated at the Site from 1936 to 1962 manufacturing electronic parts and components, including capacitors. In addition, it is reported that Cornell-Dubilier tested transformer oils for an unknown period of time and deposited polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated materials and other hazardous substances directly onto Site soils.

The Site is currently known as the Hamilton Industrial Park and is occupied by 15 commercial businesses. Through the years, dozens of companies have operated at the Site as tenants. Currently the Site is unsecured.

MATERIALS:

Sampling conducted by EPA between June 1994 and July 1996 has revealed a wide variety of contaminants at the Site. Based on the available data, it appears as though the PCB aroclor-1254 is the most prevalent and significant contaminant present at the Site. It has been detected on-site in soils, building interiors, and in surface water and sediment of the Bound Brook. Significantly elevated levels of lead and cadmium are also present at a number of locations. A wide range of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and low levels of several organic solvents (i.e., 1,2-dichloroethene and trichloroethene), and other heavy metals (chromium, silver, and arsenic) are also present. The quantity of contaminated soils and sediments at the Site is unknown.

Results of wipe samples collected from the interiors of on-site buildings indicate the presence of PCBs at concentrations in excess of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Spill Cleanup Policy.

THREATS:

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has reviewed the available sampling data and concluded that PCBs are present at the Site at levels of public health concern. Chronic exposure to PCBs in surface soil presents a public health concern to on-site workers and others that frequent the Site. PCBs in the buildings pose a potential long-term health threat to workers.



Workers, neighboring residents and animal may be exposed to hazardous substance found on-site. High levels of hazardous substances in soils may migrate and further contaminate the environment.

ACTIONS:

A removal site evaluation was completed for the Site in January 1997. Based on the available information the Site was determined to be eligible for a CERCLA Removal Action.

On February 4, 1997 notice letters were issued to the current property owner and past owner/operator notifying them of their potential liability and requesting they respond indicating their willingness to finance or perform the required removal actions.

On February 5, EPA and the ATSDR met with representatives of the Borough of South Plainfield Department of Health and The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) to discuss threats associated with the Site and the roles of local, state and federal agencies.

On February 13, the Mayor and Town Council of the Borough of South Plainfield were briefed on the results of EPA's investigation and the status of EPA's enforcement efforts.

On February 18, EPA, ATSDR, and the South Plainfield Health Department met with owners of businesses that lease space at the Hamilton Industrial Park and held public availability sessions for employees of these businesses on February 20. Site contamination, health concerns for on-site workers, and proposed actions to limit exposure to Site contaminants were discussed at these meetings.

On February 20, EPA received responses from the two potentially responsible parties noticed for this Site. The former operator expressed an interest in negotiating an agreement with EPA for a removal action at the site. The response received from the property owner of the Site was inadequate.

On March 3, EPA met with tenants of the Hamilton Industrial Park, distributed facts sheets describing EPA's activities at the site and discussed plans for sample building interiors for PCBs.

On March 21, EPA sampled building interiors at the Hamilton Industrial Park. Wipe samples were collected from occupied areas and were analyzed for PCBs, lead and cadmium.

On March 25, 1997 a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) to stabilize the Site was issued to current property owner. The Order requires the property owner take actions to limit access to areas of known PCB contamination, limit the migration of contaminants off-site to the Bound Brook and pave driveways and parking areas within the industrial park.

On April 1, EPA met with residents and business people in the community surrounding the Site discussed the planned removal action and distributed fact sheets.

On April 4, EPA met with representatives of the City of South Plainfield and two community groups. The planned removal action and community concerns were discussed at his meeting.

On April 7, in response to concerns raised by community groups, EPA over packed several large electrical components which were leaking oil and installed temporary fencing and warning signs to block access to a footpath that crosses contaminated areas of the Site.

On April 17, a letter was received from the current property owner, stating that they agree to perform the work specified in the UAO.

On May 5, the property owner submitted a Site Operations Plan (SOP) for the work specified in the Order. The SOP was inadequate as submitted. The property owner was required to revise and resubmit the SOP.

On May 9, temporary fencing and drainage controls were installed by the property owner as interim measures to limit migration of contaminants to the stream and control access to areas of highest contamination.

On May 14 the results of the interior sampling were released to the property owner and local and state health agencies.

On May 15, EPA, ATSDR, South Plainfield Health Department and a representative of the property owner met with tenants and workers of the industrial park to discuss the interior sampling results, and the potential health risk to workers.

On May 22, EPA met with potentially responsible parties to discuss response actions required to address health threats associated with interior contamination. Both parties have expressed willingness to enter into a consent order with EPA for remediation of contaminated building interiors. A consent order will be prepared for this work.

On June 3, EPA met with representatives of the South Plainfield Fire Department. EPA recommended precautions to be taken to protect the health and safety of fire fighters responding to incidents at the Hamilton Industrial Park.

On June 5 and June 9 additional sampling was conducted to further characterize the nature of contamination in on-site buildings.

On June 6, EPA met with community groups interested in the site, discussed their concerns and provided them with information regarding technical outreach programs available to communities affected by hazardous substance contamination.

On June 11, EPA approved the Site Operations Plan (SOP) for the stabilization removal action at the Site. It is anticipated that construction will begin in July 1997. The work approved in the SOP includes installation of 3000 feet of 6-foot chain link fence, 2900 feet of silt fence, paving approximately 200,000 square feet of driveways and parking areas and hydro seeding areas devoid of vegetation.

PRESENT STATUS:

EPA has initiated a study to determine the impacts of contamination of the Bound Brook on human health and the environment. Water, soil, sediment and fish samples were collected from the stream corridor during the week of June 16. These samples will be analyzed for contaminants of concern including PCBs. The goal of this study is to provide the data necessary to evaluate the threats to the public health and the environment. The analysis of samples collected of edible fish will be prioritized. Upon receipt of these results of these analysis, EPA will consult with ATSDR and NJDOH to determine if the public should be advised against eating fish from waterways downstream of the Site.

Sampling of residential properties near the Hamilton Industrial Park was performed on June 27. The purpose of this sampling is to determine if contaminants have migrated off-site to neighboring residential areas. A total of 23 samples were collected from 20 properties. Following receipt of analytical results (in September) EPA will meet with individual property owners.

EPA is presently developing risk based interior cleanup levels for PCBs prior to entering into negotiations with potentially responsible parties for the remediation of contaminated workplaces.

In an effort to comply with the UAO, property owner's contractor arrived on site during the week of July 7 to initiate site paving. After being briefed on health and safety procedures that would have to be followed, the contractor refused to perform the work specified. The property owner has been given until July 21 to provide EPA with the name of the new contractor and a schedule of work activities.